By Senator Storms

10-00190-09   20091294__

1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to student financial assistance;

3   providing legislative intent to expand access to

4   postsecondary education and reduce student

5   indebtedness; requiring each state university and

6   community college to report information relating to

7   certain funds used to provide financial assistance to

8   certain students; prohibiting the use of such funds to

9   provide financial assistance to specified foreign

10   students; defining the term "eligible Florida

11   resident"; providing for the redirection of funds to

12   provide additional need-based financial assistance to

13   eligible Florida residents; requiring a report by

14   state universities and community colleges; providing

15   an effective date.

16

17   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19   Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to use a

20   portion of the state's limited resources to expand access to

21   postsecondary education and to reduce student indebtedness by

22   increasing need-based financial assistance for Florida

23   residents. Expanding access and increasing financial assistance

24   will encourage Florida residents to pursue postsecondary

25   education, which will produce economic benefits for the state by

26   increasing the levels of higher educational attainment and

27   earning potential of Florida's citizenry.

28   (2) By December 31, 2009, each state university and

29   community college shall report to the President of the Senate

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10-00190-09   20091294__

30 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives the total amount

31 of state funds appropriated directly or indirectly to the

32 institution and tuition and fee revenues generated by Florida

33 residents which were used to provide:

34   (a) Financial assistance during the 2007-2008 academic year

35 to students holding F-1 or M-1 visas.

36   (b) Need-based financial assistance during the 2007-2008

37 academic year to students classified as residents for tuition

38 purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21, Florida Statutes.

39   (3) Effective for the 2010-2011 academic year and each year

40 thereafter:

41   (a) A state university or community college may not use

42 state funds appropriated directly or indirectly to the

43 institution or tuition or fee revenues generated by Florida

44 residents to provide financial assistance to any student holding

45 an F-1 or M-1 visa.

46   (b) The amount of funds reported pursuant to paragraph

47 (2)(a) shall be used by an institution to provide additional

48 need-based financial assistance to eligible Florida residents.

49 If the unmet need for eligible Florida residents is fully

50 satisfied without reliance on loans, any remaining funds shall

51 be used to provide merit-based financial assistance to eligible

52 Florida residents.

53   (4) For purposes of this section, "eligible Florida

54 resident" means a student classified at the time of initial

55 enrollment at a state university or community college as a

56 resident for tuition purposes pursuant to s. 1009.21, Florida

57 Statutes.

58   (5) Funds redirected pursuant to this section shall be

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10-00190-09 20091294__

59 additional funds for need-based financial assistance for

60 eligible Florida residents and may not be used to reduce or

61 supplant the level of funding for need-based financial

62 assistance for such students.

63 (6) For purposes of this section, financial assistance does

64 not include compensation paid to students for assistantships or

65 participation in work-study programs.

66 (7) Each state university and community college shall

67 report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the

68 House of Representatives by July 1, 2011, the number of Florida

69 residents benefiting from the use of financial assistance

70 provided from the funds redirected pursuant to this section.

71 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.